

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 7

0900 Hours May 3, 2008

The next Situation Report will be May 5, 2008 at 1000 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 8; two EF 0 tornadoes - Gloucester and Mathews Counties, five EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights and the counties of Brunswick, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Halifax. In addition, NWS confirmed an EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk. Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

EXECUTIVE ACTION

- EOC Activation:** The VEOC has transitioned to Recovery Operations with **normal** staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations will be coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.
- State of Emergency:** At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April.
- Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time. The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.
- Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.
- Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk Open.
- ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Fielding local, national and international media inquiries. Providing public information and awareness for tornado and disaster preparedness and promoting cash donations for casualties of the recent Virginia tornadoes. Coordinating press releases with various agencies to include a Press Release from Virginia Department of Taxation reference tax relief granted for victims of the tornadoes. [Tax Relief Granted for Victims of Tornadoes](#)

WEATHER

- Forecast:** Saturday, 3 May: Showers with chance of thunderstorms in SWVA, some thunderstorms possibly severe; showers and chance of thunderstorms after 2 PM in West Central and Northwest Virginia; mostly sunny for remainder of state; high temps mid 70's to mid 80's; winds 15-20 with gusts up to 30 MPH in SW and West Central; winds 10-20 MPH in South Central and Southeast; 5-15 MPH remainder of state. Saturday Night: Showers with chance of thunderstorms in SWVA, West Central, Northwest Virginia; showers with chance of thunderstorms after 9 PM for remainder of state; low temps upper 40's to low 60's; winds 5-15 MPH. Sunday, 4

May: Partly sunny with chance of showers and thunderstorms in Northern and Southeast Virginia; high temps mid 60's to upper 70's; winds 5-10 MPH

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg on 29 April. ***Region 5 Coordinator Twigg demobilized on 2 May and is available to assist City of Suffolk if needed.***

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue Request for SAR cadaver dog teams to do sweeps of debris and damaged homes was completed 29 April with negative results. Civil Air Patrol completed two air missions one with NWS, VDEM Regional Coordinator, and local officials. The other involved taking digital images of affected areas. All Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flyover missions have been completed as of 1830 hours, 29 April and are back at base.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams released.

Tetanus vaccinations and boosters are being provided to all residents and first responders at Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Disaster Response Center.

Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) activated and supporting American Red Cross. Currently planning for "Community Clean Up" scheduled for 10 May.

The Community Services Board is present at the Suffolk Disaster Recovery Center, Westminster Church and the Hill Point, Burnett's Mill, Driver, Saddlers and Elephant Fork areas providing mental health services.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:
City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released
Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition "improving"
BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released
BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition "improving"
Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released
Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians' offices and emergent care centers

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security: Virginia State Police (VSP)
VSP currently has 39 troopers on special assignment in Suffolk supporting impacted jurisdictions.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery Initial Damage Assessment Reports:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0

Total	\$32,016,508	\$2,740,919
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Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. ***Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. The Disaster Response Center continued to experience brisk attendance on the second day with 60 households seeking information and assistance. Representatives from Virginia Employment Commission and Social Security were integrated into the Center that includes representatives from city departments, state agencies, private insurance companies, and voluntary organizations.***

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference call was held on 29 April at 1700 hours. The following are highlights from the call: Operation Blessing reported providing 300 meals at the request of the American Red Cross on 29 April for emergency workers and responders. The Southern Conservatives have 6 debris/chain saw teams on standby to respond on 30 April to assist with debris removal. Baptist General Convention has child care teams on standby. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope is deploying teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal. The United Methodist Conference volunteers are working with feeding stations and will continue through the week.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

The American Red Cross reports that a total of 3349 meals had been served as of 2 May. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. No Red Cross Shelters are opened at this time and housing is being provided on a one-to-one basis. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. The Red Cross Service Center is located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support VDEM is supporting four active resource requests. Four requests have been completed and 3 requests have been cancelled. All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

Mapping/GIS Unit Providing support to localities and state agencies

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk: There are 407 homes total that have been tagged as damaged. Jurisdiction shelter at Kings Fork High school closed as of 1000 hours 30 April. As of 0930 hours 30 April, all roads are now open. All schools opened as of 1 May. ***The EOC is at full operational level from 0800-2000 hrs and at limited operational level from 2000-0800 hrs. The***

National Capital Region Incident Management Team was relieved by the Tidewater Incident Management Team on 2 May. A curfew for impacted areas remains in effect from 2300-0700 hrs. A contractor re-entry program has been established and contractors and residents must register at the Disaster Response Center. Debris removal operations continue and right-of-ways and Route 460 should be completed by 4 May. Fire and EMS units remain on scene assisting residents and providing EMS/fire protection and services in hardest impacted areas. The Disaster Response Center located at Suffolk Recreation Center at Kings Fork Middle School is operational from 1000 hrs – 2000 hrs and is expected to be operational through at least Sunday, 4 May. A follow up Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8 May 1900 hrs, at Kings Fork Middle School.

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-409-7729). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be “microchip” scanned. Virginia Beach SPCA has returned to Virginia Beach. No more animal feed is needed for donations.

- York County:*** The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.
- City of Chesapeake:*** Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.
- City of Colonial Heights:*** Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area estimated at \$2,000,000.
- Isle of Wight County:*** Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.
- Halifax County:*** Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.
- Brunswick County:*** Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with wind between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. 14 homes have been damaged and the estimate of damage is \$650,000. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels.
- City of Portsmouth:*** Reports of minor damage in the Churchland (northeastern) section of the city. Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk. City is currently working on damage assessment.
- City of Newport News:*** Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.
- James City County:*** 10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable. Estimated damage totals \$217,000.

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